

Summary

Claims 1-12 were pending. Claim 2 has been cancelled, Claims 1, 3, 7-8 and 11-12 have been amended, and Claims 13 and 14 added. No new matter is added as a result of this response.

Claim Objections

Claim 2 was objected to for an informality. Applicants have amended Claim 1, which now contains the elements of Claim 2, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection in the next Office Action.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 4-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tierling (US Patent Application Publication 2002/0030663). Claims 2, 3, 6 and 8-12 were objected to, but the Examiner indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has rewritten Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable elements of Claim 5. Applicant has added Claim 24, which incorporates the allowable elements of Claim 1 and Claim 6.



Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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